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Sixty-sixth year

Identical letters dated 11 August 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia dated 9 August 2011, regarding the submission to the Russian Duma of the so-called agreements concerning Russia's military bases in Georgia's occupied territories and training against radiological and biological threats (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex issued as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Alexander **Lomaia**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

11-45404 (E) 170811

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Annex to the identical letters dated 11 August 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia in reaction to the submission to the Russian Duma of the so-called agreements concerning Russia's military bases in Georgia's occupied territories and training exercises against radiological and biological threats

On 8 August 2011, Russian President Medvedev submitted a series of so-called "agreements" concerning Russia's military bases in Georgia's occupied territories to the Russian Duma for ratification. This act, which Russia has taken on the eve of the third anniversary of Russia's full-scale military aggression against Georgia, is yet another cynical step by which Russia demonstrates its lack of respect for universally recognized norms and principles of international law, for its obligations according to the terms of the Ceasefire Agreement of 12 August 2008, and for the international community's consolidated stance regarding the inviolability of Georgia's internationally recognized sovereign borders, the ethnic cleansing which has taken place in its occupied territories and the need to de-occupy these very territories.

According to reports in electronic media, on the same day (8 August), Russia's radiological and biological defence forces held exercises in the Russian Federation's Southern Military District, as well as in the Republic of Armenia and in the so-called "republics" of Abkhazia and South Ossetia. These exercises, whose aim is to monitor nuclear explosions, to carry out radiological and biological reconnaissance, aero-isolation, disinfection and decontamination of equipment, will proceed in two stages and are due to end by 2 October. They will involve 600 servicemen and 160 military vehicles.

The deadlock Russia has found itself in following its occupation of Georgian territory and its recognition of the so-called "independence" of the occupation regimes has led the Russian government to carry out absurd actions such as these training exercises in defence against radiological and biological threats in Georgia's occupied territories.

If Russia really wishes to create a safe environment at its southern borders, the best way for it to do so would be to withdraw its occupying forces from Georgia's occupied territories, to agree to the deployment of international peacekeeping forces therein, to restore the functioning of the international monitoring missions it has expelled and, at the initial stage, to permit objective and unbiased monitoring of the situation by allowing the European Union monitoring mission (with which the Georgian authorities and law enforcement agencies cooperate in the spirit of mutual understanding and transparency) to access Georgia's occupied territories.

Georgia once again declares that it is committed to the non-use of force, reaffirms its readiness to cooperate with the international community and international organizations with the goal of establishing peace and stability in the region, and demands that the Russian Federation reciprocally commit to the non-use of force, that it desist from the militarization of Georgia's occupied territories, that it fully comply with the provisions of the commitments it has undertaken (notably those of the 12 August 2008 Ceasefire Agreement), and that it ensure the full de-occupation of occupied Georgian territory.

Tbilisi, 9 August 2011